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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part II)

Rapporteur: Mr. Djamel MOKTEFI (Algeria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The previous recommendation made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 125 appears in the report of the Committee contained in document A/52/843.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 62nd, 68th and resumed 68th meetings, on 18 and 29 May and 26 June 1998. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/52/SR.62, 68 and 68/Add.1).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/51/730/Add.1 and Add.3 and Add.3/Corr.2) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/52/860/Add.8).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/52/L.39

4. At the 68th meeting, on 29 May, the representative of Ghana and coordinator of the informal consultations on item 125, on behalf of the Chairman, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" (A/C.5/52/L.39) and orally revised it as follows:

(a) Footnote 2, which had read "[A/52/860] and Add.8", was replaced by "A/52/860/Add.8";

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(b) In operative paragraph 7, the square brackets around the paragraph and the words "operational and substantive" before the word "requirements" were deleted;

(c) In operative paragraph 8, the words "and the amount of _____ dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi" were deleted after the words "support account for peacekeeping operations".

5. At its 68th meeting, on 29 May and 26 June, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/52/L.39, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the most recent of which was resolution 1163 (1998) of 17 April 1998,

Recalling its resolution 45/266 of 17 May 1991 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 52/228 of 31 March 1998,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the

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[1] A/52/730/Add.1 and Add.3 and Add.3/Corr.2.

[2] A/52/860/Add.8.

economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara as at 15 May 1998, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 70,964,762 United States dollars, representing 23 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Mission to the period ending 30 June 1998, notes that some 7 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. Expresses concern about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. Urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full and on time;

5. Takes note of the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

6. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. Requests the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to employ locally recruited staff for the Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

8. Decides to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara the amount of 22,749,540 dollars gross (21,473,540 dollars net) for the operation of the Mission for the period from 1 July to 31 October 1998, inclusive of the amount of 1,149,540 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999;

9. Decides also, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion the amount of 22,749,540 dollars gross (21,473,540 dollars net) for the period from 1 July to 31 October 1998 among Member States at a monthly rate of 5,687,385 dollars gross (5,368,385 dollars net), in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 A, B and C of 18 December 1996 and 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B and 50/471 A of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1998, as set out in its resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission beyond 20 July 1998;

10. Decides further that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 1,276,000 dollars approved for the period from 1 July to 31 October 1998;

11. Decides that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance of 2,570,300 dollars gross (2,163,200 dollars net) for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997;

12. Decides also that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, their share of the unencumbered balance of 2,570,300 dollars gross (2,163,200 dollars net) for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 shall be set off against their outstanding obligations;

13. Invites voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara".